ISSUE NO31 SEPT 2017

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER

AWAKE
Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

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FRONT COVER & T.O.C. IMAGE: SHERI REED

AWAKE
Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SEBASTIAN MICHAELS

I just added it up.

While the range of countries represented in our AWAKE group — the artists whose work you see each month here in this magazine — isn't quite as broad as that of the Photoshop Artistry course itself, we still have artists in AWAKE from fully 64 countries around the world.

That's pretty darn cool.

And what's especially wonderful is just how close our global assembly of artists has become. Not many people have friends from around the world like this.

Being able to share art and ideas, inspiring one another and lending encouragement, sharing in the hopes, ambitions, and successes of artists across the globe — it's quite exciting.

The chemistry here is unique as well. I've seen a lot of online groups flounder, pulled this way and that by negativity and drama. We just don't see that here. The artists of AWAKE (thousands of them) are friendly, supportive, helpful, positive. Above all, they're excited, and having a blast creating art together.

That's why I love being able to produce this magazine each month.

I love the idea of all these artists living and creating in all their different ways all over the planet … then coming together here in AWAKE, sharing their finest creations, and bringing forth the rich diversity of their dreams and visions for all of us to enjoy, both here in these pages and over on our portfolio site at https://ArtBoja.com.

In our private Facebook group, where so many friendships are being forged, we come to see how different our lives are in their outward aspects, and yet just how amazingly similar we are in all the ways that matter most.

Which brings me to a dream I've been turning around a great deal lately . . .

My dream is to orchestrate an event (in 2018 perhaps?), where all the thousands of AWAKE artists could come together (perhaps gathering in three or four locations around the world, connected by Skype) and spend three or four days meeting each other, working on collaborative projects, sharing ideas, and strengthening friendships that would then make the AWAKE family stronger than ever.

Already there are get-togethers and meet-ups taking place between AWAKE artists all over the world. But I'd love to carry that further. Turn it into something utterly unforgettable.

With AWAKE artists in 64 countries, I wonder how many of the artists outside of the largest hubs (the most sizable contingents being in the US, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, and South Africa) would make the trip to be part of it all if we decided to come together for three or four days worldwide.

This is something I've been thinking about more and more lately.

I'm already imagining the kind of art that would come out of such an event (and the extended edition of the magazine we would see as a result!), and more importantly the creative inspiration it would generate, the life-changing friendships it would spark.

The life of a creative photographer and photo artist can be a solitary one. Being part of AWAKE changes that. But how exciting would it be to come together in person — not at some stale convention filled with strangers and a bunch of vendors, but at what would feel more like a party (or an adventure!), more like an exciting gathering of friends from all over the world, together at last, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Something to be thinking about . . . and dreaming toward . . .

In the meantime, I hope you will enjoy the art we've brought together for you this month. The collection you'll find here is extraordinary. Let it inspire you, and let it awaken in you a delight in all that is beautiful and exquisite.

Artists all over the world worked hard to bring you these treasures.

Savor them. And let them fire your imagination.

~ Sebastian
http://QuillAndCamera.com

Image by Amy Ecenbarger (USA)
http://www.lookingglassweb.com/

Inner Instinct Part III

Vibeke Alvestad Johansen
(Norway)

The Celestial Wanderer

Anna Czekala
(France)

https://artboja.com/art/s7ovmw/

Casting With
the Moon

Leslie Schrader-Fagnan
(USA)

Alice In Chains

Lose the Gravity

Cathrine Blan
(UK)

https://www.behance.net/dollycathy
https://artboja.com/art/316xid/

Natural Beauty

Late Night Dancer

Kelvin Carrington
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/8u4kld

Fleeting Glimpse

Janice S. Batterbee
(Spain)

City Life Series

Kristin Couch
(Sweden)

http://www.kcfotos.se/

http://www.artboja.com/stinacc

The Patriarch

Jim Laskowicz
(USA)

http://artboja.com/art/kghhxj

An Elegant Decay

Floral Romance

Barbara A Lane
(USA)

http://www.barbaraalane.com/
https://artboja.com/art/y36pod/

Silence

Amelia Blanco
(Cuba)

http://www.ameliablanco.com/
http://www.ameliabdigitalartistry.com/

Seashells
No. 1-3

Sandi Terry
SugarbushStudio
(USA)

Innocent Beauty

Barbara Dudzinska
(Australia)

Beauty in
the Lake

http://www.smartartplace.com/
https://artboja.com/art/7qn7s6/

Medhead

Nancy Brizendine
(USA)

https://www.facebook.com/nbrizphotoart
https://artboja.com/art/wi7y8e/

African
Sunshine

Dale Botha
(Australia)

https://artboja.com/art/x1el96/

Heal Your
World

Coco

ALBaMass
(Australia)

Cosy Soft Watercolour

https://artboja.com/art/nsthnn/

The
Dancer

Ann Lavin
(Australia)

https://artboja.com/art/d6au4o/

Vivacity

Shoes of Iron

Dan Lavery
(Canada)

https://artboja.com/art/gcjfzb/

Travel Writer

Codie Moore
(USA)

http://www.codiemoore.com/
http://artboja.com/art/w3juh4

Flight Ready

Merrilee Soberg
(Canada)

https://artboja.com/art/p41f0u/

Pondering Time

The Petition

Laura Lipke
(USA)

http://www.lauralipke.com/
https://artboja.com/art/fmd6h2/

Moon Dust
and Stars

Pressure

Jean Hutter
(USA)

http://www.jeanmhutter.com/
https://artboja.com/art/wh7jv6/

The Lights Are On,
But Nobody's Home

Lou Ann Donahue
(USA)

Faded Memories

Nancie Rowan
(USA)

Past Pleasures

https://artboja.com/art/j98ilq/

Skimmers

Rebecah Thompson
(USA)

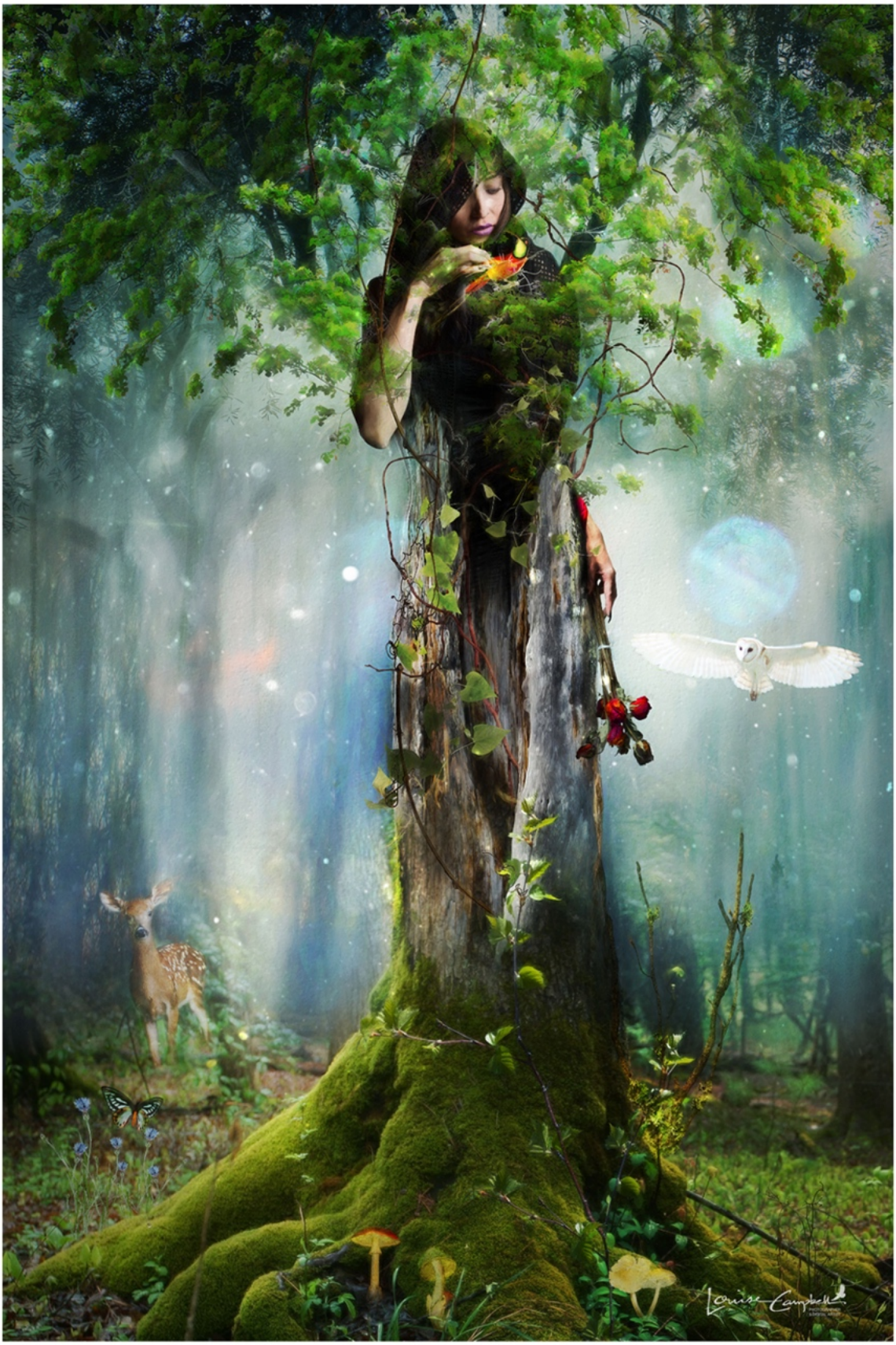
Shrimp Boats at Dock

http://www.rebecahthompsondi.com/
https://www.artboja.com/art/qawqkh/

Something Beyond

Marjut Korhonen
(Finland)

https://artboja.com/art/ly66nh/



Louise Campbell
(Australia)

https://artboja.com/art/uaoyol/
http://www.facebook.com/DigitDesignStudio

Natural Connection

Featured Artist

Sherri Reed

Crane Canyon

“ In 2013, I stepped very far out of my comfort zone and signed up for this new class called **Photoshop Artistry**. For me it was one of those remarkable moments in time where my passion for photography grew by leaps and bounds. Not only in the work I do, but the confidence it has given me to call myself an artist. ”

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Autumn

At the Water's Edge

43 Days

Heirloom

“ So often what the final image looks like may bear little or no resemblance to what I have captured through the lens of my camera. That’s because when it comes to my photography I now consider myself first and foremost an artist.
My canvas just happens to be a camera. ”

Yesterday’s Farm

Sherri Reed

(USA)

http://www.sherrireedstudios.com

https://www.artboja.com/art/xsw5rq/

https://www.instagram.com/sherri_reed_studios/

Racing the Wind

Barbara Brady-Smith
(USA)

http://sharethejoyphotography.com/

Release

Julie Powell
(Australia)

Snow White Queen

http://www.juliepowellphotography.com/

Coyote Pup — Nicole Wilde (USA)

The Leap — http://www.photomagicalart.com/

Sunflowers

Kathryn Kempke
(USA)

The Pharaoh's Concubine

Janet Sipl
(USA)

http://www.flickr.com/photos/janetsipl/

Leaving the City — Richard Strange (England)

Gazing at the Water

Something to Crow About

Sue Spang
(USA)

Poppies, Poppies, Sleep, Sleep

Life is Art

Annette Hanl
(Germany)

http://annette-hanl.de/

Everly

Thomas L Moseley
(USA)

Peregrine
Falcon
and Prey

Lou Ann Goodrich
(USA)

On The Rocks

http://louanngoodrich-photoartist.com/
http://artboja.com/art/sheqeg

Of Sunset & Sand

Ann Wehner
(Australia)

Hamburg

http://www.annwehnerdigitalartistry.com/

Eclipse Goddess

Sue Liberto
(USA)

https://society6.com/suelibertophotography

Guardian

Charlene Maginn
(Canada)

Love is in the Air

Leanne M Williams
(Australia)

Looking for Love

https://artboja.com/art/d0l9th/
https://www.facebook.com/leannemwilliamsimages/

Cassie In The Sky With Pearls

Teresa Becker Voit
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/rm04ql/

Blackgoddess

The Gaze

Gabriel Olude
(Nigeria)

https://artboja.com/art/u2b6c7/
http://viewbug.com/member/gabrielolude

Trio of Light

Ray Kingsbury
(USA)

Strolling

http://www.rk2studio.com/

September Morn

Sheila Tennes
(USA)

No More ...

August Naude
(South Africa)

https://artboja.com/art/akrxnj/
http://www.augustnaudephotography.com/

Waiting for Submarines

Well Deserved Rest

https://artboja.com/art/4mrbxa/

Bill Thomson
(USA)

In the Bath

Sue Masterson
(Australia)

https://artboja.com/art/g6gt11/

Street Performer - Anna

Lady in the Boat

Marla Julien
(Canada)

Pride Gone By

Laurie Baker
(USA)

Still Life

White

Paula D Powers
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/2gjypg/
http://www.pauladpowers.com/

Golden Goddess

Jo Wilmot
(USA)

Perchance to Dream

http://artboja.com/art/w6gxaq/
http://jowilmotartistry.com/

Longing For Her Captor

Bethany Perron
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/hcrvyv/

Invoking Power

Edwin Leung
(New Zealand)

https://500px.com/elkynz

The Rose Petals

Maggy R.
Thorvaldsdottir Pease
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/3d2tlc/

Stepping Out
of the Box

Nina Irvin
(USA)

Sunset Silhouette

https://artboja.com/art/3whzmg/

Under Pressure

Catherine King
(USA)

http://www.ckingfineart.com/

Lighthouse

Åsmund Kværnstrøm
(Norway)

Streets of Fire

https://artboja.com/art/hkzkev/
https://1x.com/member/badboyozzy

Dahliettas

Deborah Pugh
(UK)

Flower Glow

http://artboja.com/art/9z1mk4

Historic Greek Freedom Warrior

Rein Stoel
(The Netherlands)

http://withoutwords.eu/

Whale Dreaming

Juliet Pierce
(Australia)

http://www.juliet-pierce.com/

Fish Dreaming

Bison

Adrian d'Blanco (South Africa)

https://www.adriandblanco.com/

Moonlight Dance

Phil Clark
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/63a1fk/

Solitude Jill Booker (Canada)

Alone https://www.behance.net/PrairieJill

Old Montreal Nightlife

Shimmer

Susan Pulaski
(USA)

http://artboja.com/art/art6ejfke

Vers le Ciel

Shelley Benjamin
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/w6ytal/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/benshell/

I Saw Your City Through Tears 1 Michèle Taylor (UK)

 I Saw Your City Through Tears 3 http://www.vandest.photography/

Moody Blue

Gail Edwards
(Canada)

Fragmented

Colleen Edwards
(Canada)

Cynamon

Rosemary S Smith
(Australia)

http://www.5-rosemary-smith.pixels.com/
https://artboja.com/art/pzhecr/

What Happened to My Home?

Sheri Emerson
(USA/Canada)

http://www.photoartbysheri.ca/
http://www.sheriemerson.com/

Spirit of Winter

Myriam Kriel
(USA)

https://500px.com/myriamkriel
https://artboja.com/art/xd2qor/

Window in the Sky

Hodgepodge Color 1

Kathleen Greenwood
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/j55odc

Perfect Awareness

Beverly Everson
(USA)

http://www.eversonphotography.com/

Fleeting Moments

Joan Stokes
(Canada)

https://www.joantaylorstokes.com/
https://artboja.com/art/lx56o9/

Misty Heron

Nicholas Sweet-Rogers
(UK)

Sheep Grazing

Outside In

Susan Crosby
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/jkt52b/

Survivors

Cathedral of Domes

Caroline Knight
(UK)

After the Hurricane

Patricia Griffin Brett
(USA)

http://patricia-brett.artistwebsites.com/

Good Day to You Ma'am

Michelle Drummond
(New Zealand)

Abandoned

http://enchanted-reality.blogspot.co.nz/
https://www.facebook.com/Whimiscal.Imagery/

Waterlily
Collage

Susan Bailey
(USA)

http://www.susanbailey.smugmug.com/

Dahlia in Heaven

Directions Please!

Louisa Hickman
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/59hcoh/

Full Moon at the Quarry

Arthur Gilbert
(USA)

Moments Like These

Viki Murray
(Australia)

Blue Square Series
- Cypress Pine

http://vikimages.com.au/
https://artboja.com/art/dpaltj/

Still Life

Diep Tran
(Australia)

https://artboja.com/art/6bqn2g

Cinders

Patti Koosed
(USA)

The Key To
More Time

http://www.patriciacreations.com/

Emerging (kākā kura)

Judi Lapsley Miller
(New Zealand)

http://www.artbyjlm.com/
https://artboja.com/art/93x42w/

The Woods

PhotoArt By Athol
(South Africa)

http://www.photoartbyathol.com/
https://artboja.com/art/147dcw/

Golden Hour

Tony Stephenson
(Australia)

Reverie

http://tonystephenson.photoshelter.com/

Red

Soumaya Schnur
(USA/Morocco)

The Surprise in the Suitcase

Viv Buckley
(Ireland)

http://www.vivbuckley.com/
https://www.artboja.com/art/xkk5gq/

Brand New Day

TD Matthews
(USA)

http://500px.com/tmphotoman

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Amanda Rockwell

http://www.brushworkshop.com

A professional designer with ScrapbookGraphics, Amanda Rockwell creates fantastic content for the AWAKE and KAIZEN groups. But I think her greatest contribution is in encouraging digital artists to get away from their screens and break out the art supplies now and then and actually have fun creating their own custom brushes.

Anna Aspnes

http://annaaspnesdesigns.com

Again and again in the work of my top students I was seeing one name turn up constantly when they were citing the source of the artistic content in their work: Anna Aspnes. When I visited her website I was stunned, and when I saw her work in *Somerset Digital Studio* magazine I knew that this was a talent I needed on my team.

Caroline Julia Moore

https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/CarolineJuliaMoore

Over the past two years, I've watched as the immensely talented Caroline Julia Moore shifted from cognitive neuropsychologist to full-time self-employed artist and conceptual photographer … all while also launching a successful content-design business. Her contributions to the group have been a delight and an inspiration.

Cheryl Tarrant

http://www.distressedtextures.net

Cheryl Tarrant is the brilliant creator behind the superb iPhone app Distressed FX and the immensely popular content design studio Distressed Textures. In looking at her artwork, one can't but wonder if her images are paintings or photographs. And her textures are simply divine. We're very lucky to have her working with us as a designer!

Denise Love
http://2lilowls.com

The textures and backgrounds from 2 Lil' Owls are some of the finest in the digital art industry, and indeed many of the works in this magazine feature Denise's textures — often several in one piece. Without question the photo-artistic community is so much the richer for the love and care Denise brings to her designs.

Foxeysquirrel
http://www.foxeysquirrel.com

Immensely popular (and stunningly prolific), Foxeysquirrel is the name by which artist Teddi Rutschman is known around the world. Her artistic design kits bring together a wide range of styles — from the enchanted and purely whimsical to classic illustration, from the exquisitely ornate to elements with touches of dreamlike old world mastery.

itKuPiLLi
http://www.mischiefcircus.com/

itKuPiLLi is the rather unusual name donned by Kirsi Rouvinen, the celebrated digital artist from Finland. The itKuPiLLi Imagenarium at MischiefCircus.com is a source for whimsical digital goodies, and the content Kirsi creates for our KAIZEN group is always greeted with excitement and enthusiasm.

Jai Johnson
http://www.DailyTexture.com

Jai Johnson is a fine artist and the acclaimed designer behind "The Daily Texture." Time and again when a work of digital artistry caught my eye, I'd find Jai's name listed in the credits as the texture designer. It took some time to get her, but I'm extremely excited to now have Jai an active member of our KAIZEN design team.

Jen Maddocks
http://jenmaddocks.com

When some students introduced me to the work of Jen Maddocks, I was quite knocked flat. Here was a digital content creator who was as fabulous an artist as she was a designer. We are lucky to have her in our community and MORE than lucky to have her material and tutorials here in "AWAKE" and "KAIZEN."

Jill Catrinel
https://www.etsy.com/shop/JillCatrinel

Jill Catrinel works out of her art studio just north of Asheville, making her one of the few designers here quite close to me. Her work is fresh and inspired, and it's exciting to look ahead to everything I will be able to coordinate with her as the projects in the "KAIZEN" group evolve over the year ahead.

Julie Mead
https://e-scapeandscrap.net

It's always exciting to see creative success stories, and Julie Mead has certainly become one! She stepped into the digital content scene not long ago it seems, but rapidly brought on a bunch of great designers (and of course created a wonderful stream of original content herself). We're lucky to have her on our team!

Kim Klassen
http://kimklassen.com

Kim Klassen was one of the very first truly world-class artists I had the immense privilege of working with when I first launched the original Photoshop Artistry course. It was her textures (and her photography) that first caught my attention. Only later did I realized how wonderful she is as a teacher as well.

Michelle Mondragon

http://mondragonphotoanddesign.com/

Recently we've brought on the talented photographer and artist Michelle Mondragon as part of our team (though she prefers to think of herself as a "creative"). She has been providing a steady stream of extraordinary content for our AWAKE artists to use in their compositions. We are beyond excited to have her with us.

Rebecca McMeen

http://www.rebeccamcmeen.com/

Joining our team just this year, Rebecca McMeen has proven a tremendous hit with her extraordinary material, all of it so rich and complex, whimsical and artistic. Her unique style has made for a fantastic addition to the library of content our artists are now able to employ, and the resulting creations are endlessly charming.

Tangie Baxter

https://shoptangiebaxter.com/

Tangie Baxter is the lead artist of her own wildly successful design company with over a decade spent as dedicated “purveyors of digital art journaling supplies.” Her material is quirky and fun, and always a delight. Bringing her onto our team was a big event for us. Everything here got a lot more exciting with her arrival!

The Colby Files

http://www.thecolbyfiles.com/

The Colby Files is the intriguing moniker of a celebrated professional photographer located in Scottsdale, Arizona, specializing in female portraits, fashion art, model portfolios and fine art nudes. He has become our resident pro model photographer, providing an amazing library of images for our artists to work with when creating their masterpieces.

ARTBOYA

(It's pronounced "Art Bo-Ya." And it's where you'll find a world of stunning original art awaiting you.)

Explore the Stunning Artwork
of the AWAKE Artists Further at:
http://www.ArtBoja.com
Background Image Credit:
David Belsham (UK)
https://artboja.com/art/jd2tqh/

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER

INTERESTED IN CREATING PHOTO ART OF YOUR OWN?
GET STARTED HERE:
HTTP://FINEARTGRUNGE.COM

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